

WSDA Organic Program provides an evaluation of organic products for compliance with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Organic Program (NOP) trade partner arrangements. Certification by WSDA Organic Program and compliance with the following additional requirements ensures access to these important markets for Washington organic products.

**Reference the USDA National Organic Program International Trade Partners webpage for full details on all active organic trade arrangements.**

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/organic-certification/international-trade>

If you are exporting organic products that are outside the scope of established organic trade arrangements or your customers require additional verifications, WSDA Organic Program will work to provide export documentation where possible.

The Organic Trade Association's Global Organic Trade Guide is a resource on organic requirements for countries not engaged in a trade arrangement with USDA NOP. <https://globalorganictrade.com>

**NOTE:** Organic trade arrangements do not negate the need to research and meet individual country labeling laws or food or fiber regulations that may affect organic products.

The following pages outline the requirements and documentation necessary for WSDA certified organic products to be exported to the EU<sup>1</sup>, Canada, Japan, Korea, or Taiwan with an organic claim.

<b>European Union Organic Equivalency Arrangement .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Japan Equivalency Arrangement.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Korea Equivalency Arrangement .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Taiwan Equivalency Arrangement .....</b>	<b>11</b>

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<sup>1</sup> As of Jan. 1, 2021, the United Kingdom is no longer part of the EU and has its own organic trade arrangement in place with the US. More information will be added to this guide as it becomes available. Please use the resources located at: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/organic-certification/international-trade/UK> and contact our program for assistance if you are exporting to the UK.

## European Union Organic Equivalency Arrangement

The United States has an equivalence arrangement with the European Union (EU)<sup>2</sup>. The equivalence arrangement grants USDA certified organic products access to the EU market and grants EU certified organic products access to the U.S. market.

A WSDA certified organic product may be exported to the EU without additional certification if the product meets the terms of the arrangement.

### Requirements

USDA certified organic crops or products sold in the EU with an organic claim must meet the following additional requirements:

1. Must be produced within the U.S. or have had final processing or packaging occur within the U.S.
2. Must meet the following critical variances:
  - a. Apples and Pears – may not be produced using antibiotics. **Note:** *Antibiotic use is prohibited per USDA organic regulations as of October 21, 2014.*
  - b. Wine – must be produced using only the winemaking practices and substances detailed in the EU Organic Regulations EEC 203/2012 and outlined in the table on the next page.

WSDA certified operations processing or handling organic products that will be sold in the EU with an organic claim must also ensure the following:

1. Practices for verifying and tracking organic products exported to the EU must be outlined in the International Trade section of the operation's [Organic System Plan](#).
2. Records must be maintained, and available at inspection, to verify compliance with the Organic System Plan and both EU and USDA organic regulations.
3. Individual crops or products may be approved for export to the EU, provided suppliers with EU approved products are in place and records to verify compliance throughout the supply chain are maintained.

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<sup>2</sup>The following countries are in the EU: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden. Additional information: [http://europa.eu/about-eu/countries/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/about-eu/countries/index_en.htm)

## Requirements - Wine Products

A WSDA Organic EU Wine Approval Application is required for each organic wine exported to the EU. Certified organic wine processors must keep records regarding compliance with EU organic requirements outlined on the next page, as well as compliance with the USDA organic regulations.

Wine Production Material/ Practice	EU status	EU regulation reference
Enzymes (other than pectolytic enzymes)	Prohibited	EC 203/2012 Article 29c, Annex VIIIa
Partial dealcoholisation of wine	Prohibited	EC 606/2009, Annex I A, Point 40
Electrodialysis treatment to ensure the tartaric stabilization of the wine	Prohibited	EC 606/2009, Annex I A, Point 36
Treatment with cation exchangers to ensure tartaric stabilization of the wine	Prohibited	EC 606/2009, Annex I A, Point 43
Partial concentration through cooling	Prohibited	EC 1234/2007 Annex XVa, Section B.1, Point (c)
Elimination of sulphur dioxide by physical processes	Prohibited	EC 606/2009, Annex I A, Point 8
Centrifuging and filtration with or without an inert filtering agent	Restricted: the size of the pores shall be not smaller than 0.2 micrometer	EC 606/2009, Annex I A, Point 3
Heat treatments	Restricted: temperature shall not exceed 70 °C (158 °F)	EC 606/2009, Annex I A, Point 2
Use of ion exchange resins	Allowed	EC 606/2009, Annex I A, Point 20
Reverse osmosis	Allowed	EC 1234/2007, Annex XVa, Section B.1, Point (b)

## Labeling Requirements

WSDA certified organic products exported to the EU must meet the following labeling requirements:

1. All labels must display the certifier code. WSDA Organic Program's certifier code is US-ORG-058.
2. Retail products may use the USDA organic seal or the EU organic logo.
  - a. If displaying the EU logo, the certifier code must appear in the same visual field. The term "non-EU Agriculture" must also be displayed in same visual field. The term "U.S. Agriculture" may be used if all raw materials are farmed in the United States.
3. EU organic regulations do not include a labeling category for 100% organic products. 100% products may be labeled as "organic" without the "100%" descriptor.

4. The EU organic regulations do not have a labeling category for “made with” organic products. For products containing less than 95% organic ingredients, a percentage statement of organic content may be displayed on the label. *Products with less than 95% organic ingredients must not display the EU organic logo.*
5. Wine made with added sulfites are not eligible for an “organic” claim in the U.S. However, these products may be exported to the EU with an organic label and may use the EU logo. To avoid marketing noncompliant product in the U.S., shipping containers and documents for export must be clearly marked “for export only.”
6. WSDA Organic Program must approve all labels for products exported to the EU, prior to use.

You can find the complete EU organic labeling requirements at this link:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:189:0001:0023:EN:PDF>



European Organic Food Label (EU)



USDA Organic Seal

## Export Documentation

An electronic Certificate of Inspection (eCOI) must be issued per shipment to the EU via the [Trade Control and Expert System \(TRACES\)](#). WSDA Organic Program authorizes an eCOI for WSDA certified organic operations for a fee of \$40 per request.

Each producer/final manufacturer, exporter, and EU importer needs to register as “Operators” within TRACES. To export product to the EU, please contact the WSDA Organic Program at [organic@agr.wa.gov](mailto:organic@agr.wa.gov) for assistance in getting TRACES account.

Once in the TRACES system, the following must be completed *prior to each shipment* to the EU:

1. The exporting WSDA certified operation or the EU importer must create an eCOI in TRACES by entering organic product and shipment details. *WSDA Organic Program will only have access to eCOIs that identify our agency as the certifier in Box 1.*
2. Once the eCOI is complete, a PDF of the pending eCOI and supporting documentation, such as a WSDA EU Wine Approval Application if applicable, must be sent to WSDA Organic Program: [organic@agr.wa.gov](mailto:organic@agr.wa.gov)
3. A physical COI must accompany the shipment, or be sent directly to the importer. *Specify in the request where the original COI should be sent. If a COI is to be shipped to an international address, provide a FedEx account number that may be used.*
4. WSDA Organic Program may request further information as needed to determine compliance.

Contact the WSDA Organic Program at [organic@agr.wa.gov](mailto:organic@agr.wa.gov) or 360-902-1805 for more information and assistance with exporting organic products to the EU.

## Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement

The United States has an equivalence arrangement with Canada. The equivalence arrangement grants USDA certified organic products access to Canada's market and grants Canada Organic Regime (COR) certified organic products access to the U.S. market.

A WSDA certified organic product may be exported to Canada without additional certification if the product meets the terms of the arrangement.

### Requirements

USDA certified organic crops or products sold in Canada with an organic claim must meet the following additional requirements:

1. Must be produced *without* sodium nitrate.
  - a. Annual compliance is granted on a site by site basis.
  - b. Use of sodium nitrate on a site that is certified in compliance with U.S. – Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement will result in the inability to export that year's harvest to Canada and may result in compliance action.
2. Must not be grown using hydroponic or aeroponic production methods. **Note:** *WSDA Organic Program does not currently accept applications for hydroponic or aeroponic production.*
3. Agricultural products derived from animals (with the exception of ruminants) must be produced according to livestock stocking rates as set out Canadian organic regulations.

[http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2020/ongc-cgsb/P29-32-310-2020-eng.pdf](http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2020/ongc-cgsb/P29-32-310-2020-eng.pdf)

WSDA certified operations producing and handling organic products that will be sold in Canada with an organic claim must also ensure the following:

1. Certified producers must disclose the use of sodium nitrate and stocking rates in the WSDA Organic Crop and Livestock System Plans (AGR 2121 and AGR 2254).
2. Practices for verifying and tracking organic products exported to Canada must be outlined in the International Trade section of the operation's [Organic System Plan](#).
3. Both Canada export eligible and non-eligible products may be produced or handled by a certified operation, provided systems are in place and records are maintained to verify compliance throughout the supply chain.
4. Records must be maintained, and available at inspection, to verify compliance with the Organic System Plan and both Canada and USDA organic regulations.

## Labeling Requirements

WSDA certified organic products exported to Canada must meet the following labeling requirements:

1. Products certified as “organic” (containing 95% or more organic ingredients) and meeting the U.S. – Canada Equivalency requirements may use either the USDA or Canadian Organic Regime (COR) seal. Use of WSDA Organic Logo is also optional.
2. Products from the U.S. or other countries using the COR seal must include a country of origin statement or the word “imported” in close proximity to the seal.
3. A certifier statement that identifies the name of the certifier must appear on the label. If using a USDA seal, then this certifier statement must be placed below the information identifying the distributor of the product. Otherwise, this statement can be placed anywhere on the label.
4. Canadian organic regulations do not include a labeling category for 100% organic products. 100% products may be labeled as “organic” without the “100%” descriptor.
5. Canadian organic regulations do not include a labeling category for “made with” products and the “made with organic \*\*\*” claim is prohibited. Certified products that are between 70 and 95% organic may declare “\_\_% organic ingredients.”
6. The claim “certified organic” is prohibited. This phrase may only appear in the certifier statement on the information panel of the label.
7. Labels for products exported to Canada must be bilingual.
  - a. The common name, net weight, and the phrase “certified organic by” must be displayed in both French and English.
  - b. Labels displaying any “organic” claims or logos must also make a French “biologique” claim.
8. WSDA Organic Program must approve all labels for products exported to Canada, prior to use.

You can find the complete Canadian organic labeling requirements at this link:

<https://www.inspection.gc.ca/food-label-requirements/labelling/industry/organic-claims-on-food-labels/eng/1389725994094/1389726052482>

## Additional Quebec Requirements

Additional requirements exist for products intended to be exported to Quebec:

1. Organic fruit and vegetables must be individually labeled, if possible.
2. The name of certified operation (grower or handler) and certification agency must be printed on a sticker or label affixed to each organic fruit or vegetable.

**Export Documentation**

An organic certificate with the statement "Certified in accordance with the terms of the U.S. – Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement" must accompany each shipment of organic crops or products exported to Canada.

To request a Canada evaluation of sites or products, or for more information and assistance with exporting organic products to Canada, contact the WSDA Organic Program at [organic@agr.wa.gov](mailto:organic@agr.wa.gov) or 360-902-1805.



Canadian Organic Regime Logo (COR)



USDA Organic Seal

## Japan Equivalency Arrangement

The United States has an equivalence arrangement with Japan. The equivalence arrangement grants USDA certified organic products access to Japan's market and grants Japan Agricultural Standards (JAS) certified organic products access to the U.S. market.

A WSDA certified organic product may be exported to Japan without additional certification if the product meets the terms of the arrangement.

### Requirements

USDA certified organic crops or products exported to Japan with an organic claim must meet the following additional requirements:

1. Must be produced within the U.S. or have had final processing or packaging occur within the U.S.

WSDA certified operations producing and handling organic products that will be sold in Japan with an organic claim must also ensure the following:

1. Practices for verifying and tracking organic products exported to Japan must be outlined in the International Trade section of the operation's [Organic System Plan](#).
2. Records must be maintained, and available at inspection, to verify compliance with the Organic System Plan and both Japan and USDA organic regulations.
3. Individual crops or products may be approved for export to Japan, provided suppliers with Japan approved products are in place and records to verify compliance throughout the supply chain are maintained.

### Labeling Requirements

WSDA certified organic products exported to Japan must meet the following labeling requirements:

1. The use of the USDA organic seal on an organic product exported to Japan is optional.
2. The JAS seal is required on packaged retail products.
3. The certifier must be identified on any label being exported to Japan with the following statement placed below the information identifying the handler or distributor of the product: "Certified Organic by (insert name of Japan-recognized or USDA-accredited body)."
4. Some USDA-certified organic products, such as honey, alcoholic beverages, and textiles are not covered under the Japan organic regulations. USDA certified organic honey, alcohol, and textiles may be sold in Japan and labeled with the word "organic" in English or Japanese, but cannot use the JAS organic seal.
5. The JAS seal may only be applied to eligible products in one of three ways:
  - a. Contract with a JAS-certified importer to apply a JAS organic seal to products in the U.S.
  - b. Ship products to a JAS-certified importer who will apply a seal specific to the JAS-certified



operation to the product once it arrives in Japan.

- c. Obtain direct JAS certification through a JAS-accredited certifier. *WSDA Organic Program works with USDA and JAS-accredited certifier Control Union to facilitate this process for WSDA certified operations. Contact our team for more details.*

6. WSDA Organic Program must approve all labels for products exported to Japan, prior to use.

You can find the complete Japan Agricultural Standard (JAS) labeling requirements at this link:

[https://www.maff.go.jp/e/policies/standard/specific/organic\\_JAS.html#Organic%20Standards](https://www.maff.go.jp/e/policies/standard/specific/organic_JAS.html#Organic%20Standards)

## Export Documentation

USDA organic products exported to Japan under the equivalency arrangement must be accompanied by a USDA Export Document or a TM-11.

WSDA Organic Program is authorized by USDA to issue the TM-11 to certified operations for a fee of \$40 per request. Submit a TM-11 application and supporting documentation to the WSDA Organic Program at [organic@agr.wa.gov](mailto:organic@agr.wa.gov).

USDA certified products not regulated by the Japan organic regulation (e.g. honey, alcoholic beverages, textiles) typically do not require an export certificate. However, alcoholic beverages that display the Japanese word for “organic” must be accompanied by an export certificate. WSDA Organic Program offers generic transaction certificates to meet this requirement and other customer requests.

Contact the WSDA Organic Program at [organic@agr.wa.gov](mailto:organic@agr.wa.gov) or 360-902-1805 for more information and assistance with exporting organic products to Japan.

The TM-11 Export Application can be found online at:

<https://agr.wa.gov/departments/organic/resources/international>



JAS Organic Seal (Japan)



USDA Organic Seal

## Korea Equivalency Arrangement

The United States has an equivalence arrangement with Korea. The equivalence arrangement grants USDA certified organic products access to Korea's market and grants Korea certified organic products access to the U.S. market.

A WSDA certified organic product may be exported to Korea without additional certification if the product meets the terms of the arrangement.

### Requirements

USDA certified organic product exported to Korea with an organic claim must meet the following requirements:

1. Must be either produced within the U.S. or have had final processing occur within the U.S.
2. Must be a processed products, as defined by the Korea Food Code:
  - a. "Processed food" refers to multi-ingredient products, food manufactured with food additives or processing aids, and products that are ground or otherwise transformed so the original form is unrecognizable.
  - b. Simple processed products, such as cut, salted, or ripened products are generally excluded from the Korean definition of "processed food" and would not qualify for export under this arrangement.
3. Apples and pears used as ingredients must be produced without antibiotics. **Note:** *Antibiotic use is prohibited per USDA organic regulations as of October 21, 2014.*
4. Products must contain at least 95% or more organic ingredients.

WSDA certified operations handling organic products that will be sold in Korea with an organic claim must also ensure the following:

1. Practices for verifying and tracking organic products exported to Korea must be outlined in the International Trade section of the operation's [Organic System Plan](#).
2. Records must be maintained, and available at inspection, to verify compliance with the Organic System Plan and both Korea and USDA organic regulations.
3. Individual products may be approved for export to Korea, provided suppliers with Korea approved products are in place and records to verify compliance throughout the supply chain are maintained.

## Labeling Requirements

1. Products may display the Korean organic food label and/or the USDA organic seal.
2. Korea organic regulations do not include a labeling category for 100% organic products. 100% products may be labeled as “organic” without the “100%” descriptor.
3. WSDA Organic Program must approve all labels for products exported to Korea, prior to use.

You can find the complete Korea labeling requirements at this link:

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/organic-certification/international-trade/Korea>

## Export Documentation

A National Agricultural Products Quality Management Service (NAQS) Import Certificate of Organic Processed Foods must accompany each shipment of organic products to Korea.

WSDA Organic Program is authorized to issue this document to WSDA Organic Program certified operations for a fee of \$40 per request. Submit a NAQS Import Certificate and supporting documentation to the WSDA Organic Program at [organic@agr.wa.gov](mailto:organic@agr.wa.gov).

Contact the WSDA Organic Program at [organic@agr.wa.gov](mailto:organic@agr.wa.gov) or 360-902-1805 for more information and assistance with exporting organic products to Korea.

The NAQS Application can be found online at:

<https://agr.wa.gov/departments/organic/resources/international>



MAFRA Organic Logo (Korea)



USDA Organic Seal

## Taiwan Equivalency Arrangement

The United States has an equivalence arrangement with Taiwan. The equivalence arrangement grants USDA certified organic products access to Taiwan's market and grants Taiwan certified organic products access to the U.S. market.

A WSDA certified organic product may be exported to Taiwan without additional certification if the product meets the terms of the arrangement.

### Requirements

USDA-certified organic product exported to Taiwan with an organic claim must meet the following requirements:

1. Must be either produced within the U.S. or have had final processing occur within the U.S.
2. Products must contain at least 95% or more organic ingredients.
3. Livestock products must be derived from animals not treated with antibiotics, or systemic use of pain killers or analgesics, including the use of Lidocaine or Procaine.

### Labeling Requirements

1. For retail products, labels or stickers must state the name of the U.S. certifying agent and may use the USDA Organic seal. Use of Taiwan's organic mark is not allowed on products exported to Taiwan.
2. Taiwan organic regulations do not include a labeling category for 100% organic products. 100% products may be labeled as "organic" without the "100%" descriptor.
4. Fortified organic milk (milk with added vitamins and minerals) products exported to Taiwan must use the term "fortified milk" on labels. The term "fresh milk" may not be used.
5. WSDA Organic Program must approve all labels for products exported to Taiwan, prior to use.



WSDA certified operations producing and handling organic products that will be sold in Taiwan with an organic claim must also ensure the following:

1. Practices for verifying and tracking organic products exported to Taiwan must be outlined in the International Trade section of the operation's [Organic System Plan](#).
2. Records must be maintained, and available at inspection, to verify compliance with the Organic System Plan and both Taiwan and USDA organic regulations.
3. Individual crops or products may be approved for export to Taiwan, provided suppliers with Taiwan approved products are in place and records to verify compliance throughout the supply chain are maintained.

**Export Documentation**

USDA organic products exported to Taiwan under the equivalency arrangement must be accompanied by a USDA Export Document or a TM-11.

WSDA Organic Program is authorized by USDA to issue the TM-11 to certified operations for a fee of \$40 per request. Submit a TM-11 application and supporting documentation to the WSDA Organic Program at [organic@agr.wa.gov](mailto:organic@agr.wa.gov).

Contact the WSDA Organic Program at [organic@agr.wa.gov](mailto:organic@agr.wa.gov) or 360-902-1805 for more information and assistance with exporting organic products to Taiwan.

The TM-11 Export Application can be found online at:

<https://agr.wa.gov/departments/organic/resources/international>